

BASEBALL :: GOLF :: RACING :: ROWING :: BOXING :: ATHLETICS

SPORTING EVENTS OF THE FIRST WEEK OF SPRING



BERGER IS TOUGH GAME FOR O'BRIEN

Has Wicked Punch and
Some Experience.

WILL BE GRUDGE AFFAIR

Frisco Man Made Too Many Sarcastic
Remarks When Jack Met Fitz—
Burns a Comer.

By CHIP.

CHICAGO, April 7.—Jack O'Brien is going to be an extremely busy pugilist during the next two months, with three important matches staring him in the face. The first go will be with Sam Berger, the latter part of this month; May 10 he takes on Tommy Burns, and later on in that month he plans to meet Frank Gotch, the noted wrestler, who has been trying to break into the fight game for some time.

The clever Philadelphian may have some little trouble in running the gauntlet composed of Messrs. Berger, Burns, and Gotch unscathed. Right at the start he will, many believe, find a formidable opponent in Young Berger, who renounces the amateur heavyweight championship to get a crack at O'Brien, Grudge Fight.

The affair with Berger will be something of a grudge fight. During O'Brien's memorable battle with Fitzsimmons, the California youngster, seated near the ring, made rather slighting comments on O'Brien's methods, and freely asserted that the tactics used by Fitzsimmons' conqueror would not avail against him (Berger). O'Brien heard some of these remarks and, after the fight, declared he would be only too glad to take on Mr. Berger when the opportunity should come, if for no other reason than to show the young man that he still had a few things to learn about the pugilist game.

However, this Berger boy is a pretty tough proposition for any amateur or professional. He has been in a class by himself among the amateurs—and he it remembered that, on the Coast the gulf between the amateurs and the "pros" is an extremely narrow one. Berger's friends have been trying for a long time to induce him to enter the professional ranks, but his answer has always been that he would not do so unless he could, like Jimmy Britt, battle with the topnotchers right at the start. No working his way up for him.

Berger Has Punch.

Berger is a big, husky young fellow with a terrible punch, and considerable knowledge of the finer points of the game. He has acted as sparring partner for some of the best and cleverest professional boxers that have ever visited the coast and undoubtedly has picked up a great deal of valuable experience in this manner. He will unquestionably put up a stiffer fight than Al Kaufman did with O'Brien, as he is generally considered the better man of the two. The reason that the question of superiority has never been settled between the two men is that their great friendship for each other has precluded such a test.

So when O'Brien and Berger meet, the fur is bound to fly and the veteran will find use for every bit of his science, coolness, and generalship, if Berger performs as his admirers confidently expect he will. The knowledge that he will practically own the entire State of California in case he should topple over the Philadelphian will be a great incentive to the youngster to extend himself to the utmost.

In case O'Brien does for Berger, he will next stack up against Tommy Burns, who is beginning to be looked upon as a "comer."

O'Brien probably has no misgivings whatever about this match, as he has previously met Burns at Milwaukee something over a year ago, when he had no trouble in outboxing the Detroit lad. Burns avers, however, that times have changed since then, that he has improved wonderfully, and that he will give Fox Jack the fight of his life when they next meet in the ring.

There is no denying that Burns has come on rapidly within the past six months. He is beginning to receive due credit for his defeat of Marvin Hart, which, at first, was looked upon as something of a fluke, but which is now regarded as having been due to the little fellow's remarkable quickness and superior generalship. Burns has lately shown that he has something of a punch by the easy manner in which he recently knocked out a couple of

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With over fifty entries already in the hands of the committee in charge of the first open golf tournament of the National Capital, given under the auspices of the Columbia Club, the meeting bids fair to equal any held in this district in a number of years.

The closing of the Pinehurst meeting on Friday night leaves the tournament which will be held here next Tuesday and Wednesday the last of the season before the opening again next fall. Practically all the best professionals and amateurs who have been playing in the South will arrive in Washington some time today and register at the Ebbitt House, where the visitors will have their headquarters.

Visitors Arrive Today.

A great many of those who will reach the city today are expected to enter between now and 5 o'clock Monday evening, when the entries close with T. P. Moran, at the Columbia Club. Only one additional professional entry has been sent to the committee in charge since the list was published in the Times on Thursday last—that of R. M. Thomas, of Philadelphia. Thomas, Alex Smith, the famous Nassau professional; Donald Ball, of Philadelphia; and James Douglas, the Chevy Chase professional, have been out on the Columbia links all week getting in shape for next week.

Among the additional visitors who will compete is Sidney Maddock, of the New York Crescent Club, and who has recently won the championship of the United States in the amateur tournament. Dr. F. W. Glazebrook, Army Surgeon, and Alex Britton, of the Chevy Chase Club, are some of those who will represent that organization. The Columbia will also have a strong aggregation in the play. Among the best of these are Drs. Lee L. and Walter H. Harben, Allan Lard, Commissioner West, and John C. Davidson.

Should Be Great Success.

The organization in charge of the affair is straining every point to make it one of the most successful ever held, and unless present plans miscarry there is no reason why it should not be. The list of entries up to 5 o'clock last night are:

From the Chevy Chase Club—Ormsby McCammon, Alex Britton, Morven Thompson, H. Oliphant, Cleve Harrison, Dr. W. M. Gray, Dr. L. W. Glazebrook, and Reve Lewis.

From the Columbia Club—Dr. Lee W. Harben, Dr. Walter H. Harben, Allan Lard, John C. Davidson, J. William McKinley, Arthur S. Mattingly, L. W. Weaver, T. P. Moran, M. E. Danforth, F. E. Sullivan, G. A. Weaver, E. S. Duval, Jr., Dr. H. T. Harding, W. J. Nally, H. L. West, and J. T. Hough.

"dubs" in the same night, taking less than a round to accomplish the trick in each case.

Down in the old New York they are planning a big three-round carnival with Marvin Hart and Gus Ruhlin as the wind up. The success of three-round clubs has made this effort possible and its promoters say they have received assurance from the authorities that they will not be molested. If the affair is run on the "club membership" "opening wedge" to greater things in the metropolis, as the feeling there has been very lenient for some time toward the stuffed glove artist and patrons.

It is rumored that New Orleans will resume its place on the fight map. Negotiations are pending for a test-round match between Battling Nelson and Terry McGovern during the last week of this month.

Jeff Might Meet Fate That Overtook John L.

Some Think Jack O'Brien Could Duplicate
Performance of Jim Corbett.
Others Don't.

By W. W. NAUGHTON.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 7.—As Big Jim Jeffries has been notably silent of late on the subject of fistcuffs and as a still tongue has been from time immemorial associated with a wise head, some persons had taken to call him the Sage of Burbank.

But Jeff has broken his lingual fast and his utterances, sketched out, just about mean that he is ready to unpack his ring habiliments and place himself inside of them if anyone will show him a worthy opponent and an attractive financial prospect.

Public Discharged Him.

Jim tries to explain that he never really retired. He holds that he was forced to resign the championship because there was no one in sight for him to defend it again. The public discharged him, according to the way Jim tells it, and now, if the public wants to put him to work again he is quite willing to buckle to.

From Jim's remarks it is gathered that he always had a hankering after his old job. The free life of the cowboy hasn't lost its charm altogether, but Jim thinks, probably, he can get enough of it between fights.

Now that Jeffries is in the "show me" mood fight fans are asking themselves what can be done. It is admitted on all sides that there is small chance just at present of creating any serious trouble for him.

Nobody But O'Brien.

Berger and Kaufman are fledglings, and either of them would probably be rendered cataleptic with buck fever if turned loose in a Queensberry inclosure with the sidetracked champion. Marvin Hart, plucky and well-meaning though he may be, is out of the running, while the idea of pitting that runt Tommy Burns against his Titanic majesty, Jeffries, merely appeals to one's sense of the ridiculous.

Jack O'Brien seems to think that he carries guns enough for Jeff, but doubtless he means rapier and javelin. If Jack is sincere in his effort to pave the way for a tilt with the big fellow he probably figures he can prod Jeff into

fighting Nelson. Gans says the purse and the division of the purse are secondary considerations. He does not care a tinker's curse about the size of the wallet, and he is willing to have Nelson take the entire contents if Nelson proves the better man.

What is more, Gans says he will box at the lightweight limit, his ability to make "133 ring-side" being attested by several trainers and pugilistic managers at present sojourning in San Francisco.

Gans says that when he saw Nelson in the East a couple of months ago the Dane promised him a fight. "He said he would meet me after he had boxed McGovern and had had a contest in Los Angeles," said Joe.

Nelson, on his arrival in Los Angeles the other day, said he would fight any man living but Gans. He is telling the truth about the Eastern interview or has Nelson repented of a hastily given promise?

The bout with Herrera naturally appeals to the Dane, for he has been over the ground before. It is a warmed-over match, in fact, and will scarcely cause a big ripple of interest as would an event in which the dural Dane was tackling a brand-new opponent. Roast turkey the first time out is always more appetizing than it is when you meet it later in the form of timbales.

One thing Nelson can thank his stars for is that he has steadfastly boomed Herrera as the hardest thumper of the many men he has met. All that the Dane has said on this point now becomes gilt-edged advertising.

April will probably be a matchless month so far as San Francisco is concerned. The fight trust appointed Coffroth matchmaker for the month in question, but after thinking the matter over, Coffroth declined the position. The game of cross purposes in which the stockholders of the trust are engaged still continues.

Al Kaufman thinks Sam Berger has no right to break out of the "amateur ranks" without consulting him. The idea of a Berger-O'Brien match is particularly distasteful to Kaufman. He says he will box Berger for everything in sight and a side bet to boot, with the understanding that the winner is to have the privilege of signing with O'Brien. Berger says nothing.

Encouraged by newspaper discussion of his enforced loneliness, Joe Gans is out with a direct challenge to "Bat-

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BASEBALL NOTES.

Pitcher Brown, of the St. Louis Nationals, is considered the fastest sprinter on that team.

There is considerable speculation as to just who will be kept on the Cincinnati roster this year. The Cincinnati papers will only vouch for four of the fielders for sure things. They are Kelly, Corcoran, Huggins, and Seymour.

It is rumored that Pitcher Smith, of the Chicago Americans, is dissatisfied and threatens to jump to the Williamsport club of the "outlaw" league. He has been negotiating with them, it is claimed.

Jake Beckley, the Cincinnati first baseman, though forty years old, puts more ginger into his work than most of the younger ball players in the major leagues. He is an ardent lover of the national game.

JENKINS AND GOTCH MAY ARRANGE MATCH

NEW YORK, April 7.—It is probable that Jenkins and Gotch will be matched to wrestle for the championship after Jenkins has met Gruhn on April 10, provided Jenkins wins.

Gruhn is the Columbia instructor, and in condition at all times, so he will be a hard man to defeat.

RACES

SPRING MEETING WASHINGTON JOCKEY CLUB

MARCH 26 TO APRIL 14

Six Races Daily

Pennsylvania Railroad Special Train leaves Sixth Street Station at 2:10 p. m.; two special trains returning, one immediately after the last race, the other to wait for delayed passengers. Fare, 25 cents. Electric cars direct to track, without change, every two minutes from Fifteenth street and New York avenue northwest (Columbia line). Fare, 5 cents.

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